

From: Bill Cibes [<mailto:cibesw@comcast.net>]
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2010 9:44 AM
To: Senator Slossberg; James Spallone; Rep. Reeves, Peggy;
tim@timobrien.org; Rep. Miller, Patricia; Mlawlor99@juno.com;
zRepresentative David Labriola; Rep. Grogins, Auden; zRepresentative
Livvy Floren; Rep. Fleischmann, Andrew; Rep. Drew, Thomas; Rep.
Hetherington, John; Sen. McLachlan, Michael; Rep. Aresimowicz, Joe;
Senator Meyer
Subject: Oppose RB 289 AAC the online submission and POSTING of SFIs

Chairmen Slossberg and Spallone, and Members of the GAE Committee:

I think you should know that if this bill is passed, the state will likely not be able to retain, or recruit, capable individuals with substantial net worth to serve in uncompensated positions on quasi-public agencies.

The objectionable language is in lines 83-86 of the bill (a new sub-part of subsection (c) of Section 1-83 -- which requires online POSTING on the Internet of SFIs).

You all know the invasion of privacy which comes when your own SFIs are posted on the Internet (as the Connecticut Mirror has done this year), but all compensated officials should expect that.

But for uncompensated officials to have their personal investments online for all to see -- exposing them to potential harassment or identity theft or worse -- does not encourage current board members to remain on the boards or prospective board members to consent to appointment.

The FILING of SFIs ONLINE caused several board members at CHEFA to resign several years ago -- at least one of whom was one of the most discerning and knowledgeable board member ever to serve on CHEFA. And I know that several current CHEFA members (who are also in that elite group) will resign if ONLINE POSTING is required. They simply do not want their personal investments exposed to anyone surfing the web. (Obviously, they understand that the information must be available, as currently, for Ethics Board staff and members to review in cases of conflict.)

I myself will be leaving the CHEFA board soon, and one (but not the only) of the reasons for my impending resignation is the possibility of having this information available to any nut on the net.

Don't pass this bill.

Bill Cibes

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